REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 10, 2007. Claims 36, 37, 44, 45, 52, 53 and 60 to 65 are pending in the application, of which Claims 36, 44 and 52 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In spite of the Examiner's earlier indication of allowable subject matter, the Examiner rejected Claims 36, 37, 39, 41, 44, 45, 47, 49, 52, 53, 55 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0024575 (Sato) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,425,650 (Walker) and newly-cited reference U.S. Patent No. 6,944,428 (Hagiwara). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns a computer coupled to a printer without a sensor for sensing a type and/or size of a print medium and updates print setting containing a type and/or size of a print medium for every print processing of received print data. The computer acquires the print setting designated in a previous print processing from the printer, and determines whether or not the acquired print setting agrees with a print setting of the present print processing. If so, the computer transmits print data to the printer for printing. If otherwise, the computer issues an alert, such as reporting an error code to a user. Accordingly, if a current print job has a print setting the same as an immediately previous print job, the current print job can be transmitted to the printer without receiving an input of the print setting by a user or confirming the print setting by a user.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 36 is directed to a host computer connected to a printer having a storage unit for storing a print setting that contains a type and/or size of a print medium included in received printing data, a printing unit

for printing the received printing data and is without a sensor for sensing a type and/or size of a print medium, the print setting being updated for every print processing of received print data. The computer includes a generation unit for generating printing data; an acquisition unit for acquiring the print setting designated in previous print processing, which is stored in the storage unit; a determination unit for determining whether or not the print setting of the previous print processing, which is acquired by the acquisition unit agrees with a print setting of the present print processing, which is designated in the printing data that is generated by the generation unit; and a processing unit for transmitting the generated printing data if agreement is determined by the determination unit, and alerting if non-agreement is determined by the determination unit.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, namely Sato, Walker and Hagiwara, considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the computer of Claim 36. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of an acquisition unit for acquiring the print setting designated in previous print processing, which is stored in a storage unit of a printer and a determination unit for determining whether or not the print setting of the previous print processing, which is acquired by said acquisition unit, agrees with a print setting of the present print processing, which is designated in the printing data that is generated by said generation unit.

Sato discloses a printer having a paper detection sensor and a paper size detecting mechanism. The printer determines whether or not a paper cassette is available to a designated process for a page to be printed. If the paper cassette is not available, the printer indicates that the detected cassettes are unavailable. The printer obtains cassette information representing a current cassette state of a selected cassette for determining whether the cassette is available or unavailable using the paper detection sensor and paper size detecting mechanism. Therefore,

Sato fails to disclose or suggest an acquisition unit for acquiring the print setting designated in previous print processing, which is stored in the storage unit of a printer.

Furthermore, Walker discloses a system of classifying incoming media entering an inkjet or other printing mechanism to identify the media without requiring any special manufacturer marking. The system obtains a media signature of an entered media by scanning the media using a blue-violet light, classifies the media type and selects a print mode corresponding to the media type. The selected print mode for a classified media type is stored and reused for media of the same type. If classifying result falls between two categories, the system remembers which category was selected previously, and then applies the same print mode to the next borderline media. Otherwise, a print mode corresponding to the classifying result is employed. Therefore, the print mode for Walker is always determined from scan results, whether the scan results are obtained from the current material or from a previously scanned material. Therefore, Walker fails to disclose or suggest an acquisition unit for acquiring the print setting designated in previous print processing, which is stored in the storage unit of a printer and a determination unit for determining whether or not the print setting of the previous print processing, which is acquired by said acquisition unit agrees with a print setting of the present print processing, which is designated in the printing data that is generated by said generation unit.

Finally, Hagiwara discloses an image information input/output device capable of carrying out communication to a mobile terminal located away from the image information input/output device through arbitrary distances. The device detects if any user having the mobile terminal approaches the device and, specifies which users are approaching. The device then displays identifications for all approaching users. However, Hagiwara fails to disclose or suggest an acquisition unit for acquiring the print setting designated in previous print processing, which

is stored in the storage unit of a printer and a determination unit for determining whether or not the print setting of the previous print processing, which is acquired by said acquisition unit agrees with a print setting of the present print processing, which is designated in the printing data that is generated by said generation unit.

In contrast to the cited references, the computer of Claim 36 is connected to a printer that has a storage unit for storing a print setting that contains a type and/or size of a print medium, a printing unit for printing the received printing data, and is without a sensor for sensing a type and/or size of a print medium. For the purpose of using such printer, the computer comprises an acquisition unit and a determination unit for determining whether or not the print setting of the previous print processing agrees to a print setting of the present print processing, and a processing unit for transmitting the generated printing data if agreement is determined by the determination unit, and alerting if non-agreement is determined by the determination unit.

As previously discussed, these features are not at all disclosed or suggested in the cited references. Because Sato and Walker disclose a detection mechanism for detecting a paper size/type as the feature for reducing the load of a user by eliminating manual input of a setting regarding a size/type of a medium. Furthermore, Hagiwara fails to disclose or suggest any storing print setting of a print processing previously performed. In light of these deficiencies of Sato, Walker and Hagiwara, Applicants submit that amended independent Claim 36 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Amended independent Claims 44 and 52 are directed to a method and computer-readable medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the computer of Claim 36. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 44 and 52 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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